

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Inukai.

In the present invention, as set forth, e.g., in amended claim 1, a rotary atomization coating apparatus includes an atomizer head with an inner part, and a center cone portion at a back side of the inner part. The cone portion has a tip angle between 30°-90°. The cone angle above has an inclined surface portion that includes a concave portion, and the concave portion is located outward of a point where a virtual line extending from a outermost side portion of the coating spray nozzle passes through the inclined surface portion.

In another embodiment, as set forth, e.g., in amended claim 7, the center cone portion has an inclined surface portion that includes a concave portion, and the concave portion is located outward of a point where a virtual line extending from a outermost side portion of the coating spray nozzle passes through the inclined surface portion. As set forth in amended claim 13, the coating spray nozzle sprays a coating material to a location that is eccentric from a rotating axis of the atomizer head.

Inukai discloses an atomizing head, but does not disclose, in combination with the other features of claims 1 and 7, the center cone portion having an inclined surface portion, as set forth in amended claim 1, or amended claim 7, or sprays a coating material to a location eccentric from the rotating axis of the atomizer head, as set forth in amended claim 13. The Examiner himself admitted that Inukai lacked these features of claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively, in combination with the other features of these claims, because these features previously were set forth in claims 4, 10, and 18,

respectively, and the Examiner stated that claims 4, 10, and 18 recited allowable subject matter.

With these features, fouling of the rotary atomization coating apparatus will be reduced, an effect which is not considered or obtained by Inukai.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 13 to more clearly recite patentable features of the invention, has amended claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 15 to correct informalities and delete redundancies, and has cancelled claims 10 and 18 to delete redundancies.

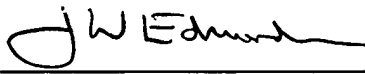
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 14, 2006

By: 

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